

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 AID-20 USIA-15 PRS-01 PM-07

DODE-00 L-03 /101 W

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R 251306Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6353

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2593

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJ: CALL ON DR. HATEM

1. AFTER SEVERAL ABORTIVE EFFORTS TO DO SO, I WAS ABLE
TO PAY COURTESY CALL TODAY ON DEPUTY PRIMIN AND MINISTER
OF INFORMATION ABDEL KADER HATEM.

2. HATEM EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT DEVELOPING UNITED STATES-
EGYPTIAN RELATIONS AND CLAIMED HE HAD LONG BEEN A PROPONENT
OF BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HATEM ALSO
REMINDED ME THAT HE HAD SIGNED ORIGINAL AGREEMENT FOR
CAIRO SHERATON HOTEL EVEN THOUGH SHERATON WAS AT THE
TIME ON THE BLACKLIST. HE HAD BEEN UNDETERRED BY CRITICISM
OF THIS ACTION AND SHERATON HAD IN FACT BEEN ABLE TO USE
THAT AGREEMENT TO GET ITSELF OFF BOYCOTT LIST IN OTHER
ARAB COUNTRIES. HATEM ALSO CLAIMED CREDIT FOR HAVING
PUSHED THROUGH RECENT GOE DECREE ACCEPTING MOST AUC
DEGREES. IN POLITICAL SPHERE, HE HAD LITTLE TO SAY
EXCEPT THAT PEACE SETTLEMENT PROCESS SHOULD BE
ACCELERATED. I REMINDED HIM THAT SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT
IS NECESSARY FIRST STEP AND THAT THE SECRETARY WILL
SHORTLY BE VISITING ME AREA TO WORK ON IT.

3. I THEN DISCUSSED WITH HATEM MY STILL UNANSWERED
LETTER TO HIM OF APRIL 13(PARA3, CAIRO 2121) ASKING
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FOR APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH JOINT EGYPTIAN-US INFORMATION

CENTER IN CONNECTION WITH NIMBUS STAR OPERATION. IT WAS CLEAR THAT HATEM HAD PAID SCANT ATTENTION TO THAT LETTER. HE CALLED IN GOE SPOKESMAN ANIS AND ASKED HIM ABOUT IT. ANIS CLAIMED THERE IS NO SPACE IN THE TV BUILDING. I THEN SUGGESTED THAT HATEM'S OFFICE CONSIDER ASSIGNING AN EGYPTIAN TO NIMBUS STAR PR TEAM NOW LOCATED IN UNUSED USIS BUILDING. THIS SHOULD ENSURE NOTHING IS DONE THAT GOES BEYOND GOE WISHES. HATEM AGREED TO DO SO AND INSTRUCTED ANIS MAKE MECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.

4. COMMENT: MEETING WAS TOTALLY UNINSPIRING. ALTHOUGH HATEM GAVE NO SUCH INDICATION WE UNDERSTAND HE WILL BE DOWNGRADED IN UPCOMING CABINET RESHUFFLE. WE KNOW HATEM EARLIER ASKED VISITING SAUDI MODA PRINCE SULTAN'S INTERCESSION WITH SADAT THAT THE PRESIDENT NOT DUMP HATEM. SULTAN DECLINED TO DO SO ON GROUNDS THIS WOULD BE UNWARRANTED SAUDI INTERFERENCE IN EGYPTIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. EILTS

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